

agencies administering programs for Veterans, to name only a few.

Besides her commitments to Mariposa County Community Services, Mrs. Williams also served as a member of a number of groups, including the Future Farmers of America/Western Days and the Farm Bureau, was appointed a member of the Fair Board by the Governor and has worked actively with the Junior Livestock Auction Committee since its formation. Mrs. Williams recently celebrated 50 years of marriage to her husband Kenny and they both look forward to spending more time with their family upon her retirement.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mary Williams for her dedicated service to the people of Mariposa County. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mrs. Williams many years of continued success.

A SALUTE TO WOMEN IN DEFENSE

HON. MARK S. CRITZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. CRITZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Women In Defense, A National Security Organization that will celebrate its twenty-fifth anniversary this Sunday, December 19, 2010.

Women In Defense began in the fall of 1979 as the brainchild of seven dynamic women, Margo Giordano Anderson, Karen Hopkins, Betty Kimmel, JoHanna Kinley, Diane Lafferman, Lillian Morris, and Rebekah Nottingham. They met and discussed the idea of starting an informal network to assist participants, especially women, in expanding their knowledge of national security issues and of the national defense community in which they participated. The association was incorporated as a nonprofit 501(c)(6) on December 19, 1985.

For 25 years, Women In Defense has provided women a formal environment for professional growth through networking, education, and career development. Its 3,000 members, and 16 chapters throughout the United States, cultivates and supports the advancement and recognition of women in all aspects of national security. Women In Defense also offers the HORIZONS Scholarship, which was established in 1988 to encourage women to pursue careers related to the national security and defense interests, and to provide development opportunities to women already working in these fields.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Women In Defense for the dramatic impact it has had on professionals who serve the national defense and national security of our nation. Its numerous successes have elevated the presence and stature of women in industry and military leadership. Because of their efforts, the United States benefits from a workforce that is better equipped to serve our great nation.

NATIONAL ALZHEIMER'S PROJECT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of the National Alzheimer's Project Act—a bill whose passage will mark the first coordinated and concentrated effort by the Federal Government to meet the challenges posed by Alzheimer's disease.

And, those challenges are many. There's the toll it takes on the physical health of the 5.3 million Americans living with the disease, the toll it takes on the emotional well-being of the 11 million people caring for those with the disease, and the increasingly great toll it takes on the finances of the federal budget. The disease takes and takes. But, with the National Alzheimer's Project Act, we can finally fight back.

The need to do so could not be any clearer.

In 2010, Medicare and Medicaid spent \$122 billion caring for people with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. Without action, the annual cost to those two programs alone from Alzheimer's disease will reach \$805 billion in 2050. But, we are not destined to increase the Medicare and Medicaid costs of this disease almost sevenfold.

In fact, we know that a therapeutic intervention that delays the onset of Alzheimer's by five years would cut nearly in half the projected Medicare cost of the disease over the same time period.

To reach that future where the number of Americans with the disease does not rise unabated and the costs spiral out of control we will need to marshal all of our resources. With this bill, we assign a field general.

The bill establishes the National Alzheimer's Project within the Office of the Secretary of Health and Human Services to improve the early diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease, to coordinate research across all Federal agencies, and to accelerate the development of treatments that would prevent, halt, or reverse the advancement of the disease.

The creation of a strategic plan not only provides a vision for fighting Alzheimer's, but also mandates the creation of benchmarks to measure our progress in that fight. Today, we have no way of evaluating outcomes, let alone a way to improve them.

I am pleased to support such a critical piece of legislation which will improve the lives of the millions of Americans living with the disease and the millions of Americans caring for them.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the House floor on the legislative day of December 14, 2010. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 628 and 630, and "no" on rollcall vote 629.

CALLING ON STATE DEPARTMENT TO LIST VIETNAM AS A RELIGIOUS FREEDOM VIOLATOR

SPEECH OF

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for H. Res. 20, calling on the State Department to list the Socialist Republic of Vietnam as a "Country of Particular Concern" with respect to religious freedom.

The State Department removed Vietnam from the CPC list in 2006, and since then, the human rights situation in that country has deteriorated significantly. After a brief improvement while Vietnam was seeking membership in the World Trade Organization, the Vietnamese government returned to its former ways—intimidation and repression of basic human freedoms. According to the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom's (USCIRF) recently released annual report, "The government of Vietnam continues to control government-approved religious communities, severely restrict independent religious practice, and repress individuals and groups viewed as challenging political authority."

Vietnam remains a severe violator of religious freedoms, and the CPC designation is a potentially powerful tool that should be used to highlight this shortcoming and encourage action. USCIRF has recommended CPC status for Vietnam every year since 2001, and continues to do so this year, advising that "[g]iven these ongoing and serious violations, the uneven pace of religious freedom progress after the CPC designation was lifted, the continued detention of prisoners of concern, and new evidence of severe religious freedom abuses, USCIRF again recommends that Vietnam be designated as a CPC in 2010."

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and I strongly urge the State Department to follow the advice of the Commission and redesignate Vietnam as a Country of Particular Concern.

THE HALL OF FAME IN HONOR OF AN AMERICAN HERO SPC TIM HALL 173 AIRBORNE BRIGADE, THE UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. DEAN HELLER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 16, 2010

Mr. HELLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the heroic sacrifice and service of SPC Tim Hall of the 173rd Airborne Brigade of the United States Army. On June 10, 2010, SPC Hall of Reno, Nevada, was severely wounded by a mortar attack in Kabul, Afghanistan. Although he was severely injured and lost both of his legs, SPC Hall continues his courageous effort on the road to recovery. My sincere gratitude, appreciation, and thoughts are with SPC Hall and all of our service members as they continue to heroically and selflessly sacrifice for our Nation. I am honored to represent SPC Hall and his family in Nevada's 2nd Congressional District. I am proud to submit a poem penned in his honor by Albert Caswell for the RECORD.